

JUNE 2022

Heart of
England | Community
Rail Partnership



Work Experience

Student: AS

This week I have worked with Julia from the Heart of England Community Rail Partnership and I have enjoyed it very much. Before arriving at this placement I hadn't heard of this job and I was unaware of all the effort and planning that goes on behind Warwickshire's big events such as Coventry Station Community day, Kenilworth food festival, Culture fest, Art in the park and so many more!

We started of the week by having a meeting at Finham Park 2 where we discussed plans for holding a 'rail week'. I found this meeting interesting because at my school we've had event similar to this in the past so I felt I could contribute my thoughts and ideas. Here's a quick rundown of our ideas:

- Name a train competition
- Design a new train logo
- Train math quizzes
- History of railways in England
- English – persuasive speech/debate competition about the 'importance of railways for our future'
- Food tech – make healthy train snacks
- Drama – safety in train stations
- Science train related lesson
- Geography – train routes – how could they be improved? , HS2 – debates
- ICT – design a website to promote sustainable, eco-friendly travelling

We also had a meeting in the morning where we discussed Warwickshire Open Studios and events that are going on in the summer.

On Tuesday, I took a look at www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk and read about the current projects such as Creative Platforms where the CRP works with young, local artists and hold a series of workshops to create work linking to the theme of connections and use of railways. I also learnt about the 4 pillars the CRPs follow in order to engage with local communities and promote sustainable, healthy and accessible travel.



These are the 4 key pillars the CRPs follow:

- A. Providing a voice for the community
- B. Promoting sustainable healthy and accessible travel
- C. Bringing communities together and supporting diversity and inclusion
- D. Support social and economic development

Then on Wednesday, in the morning we went into the office and I was introduced to the Transport Planning team and we had a meeting with the New Leaf Initiative to get feedback on the Careers, Creativity and the Commonwealth project. There I met another student on work experience and we shared what we were doing and what work we've done. Then in the afternoon we went out to several stations including Henley station where we got ice cream and put up banners for Warwickshire Open Studios summer arts week!



On Thursday we went to Warwick Parkway Station to meet with Chiltern Railways and WCC to look at potential sites for learn to ride sessions, Dr Bike, sessions for adapted bike users and guided cycle rides as a legacy for the Commonwealth Games. I also made a social media plan for Friday and wrote up some notes in the afternoon. here is the social media plan for Friday:

Day	Example posts
Day out on the patch Friday 16 th June	<p>Hi! I'm a work experience student who has spent this week with Julia from Heartcommunityrail.org.uk #HeartRailTrails. Take a look here at these new planters at Lapworth station, bringing biodiversity into our stations!</p>
	<p>Check out some of our current projects at www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk where we connect with local communities through events to provide a voice for your community and promote #sustainable healthy and accessible travel.</p>
	<p>Hi! Work experience girl here and I've had a play about with the CRP logo and came up with this eye catchy collage that represents our work with local communities and some of our latest projects! #communityrail</p>



On Friday, I took over the Twitter account and posted 3 tweets, one about Lapworth station and the new planters there, another about the current projects that we are working on and the final one being about a photo collage that I made yesterday showing one half of the CRP logo and the other half having lots of photos of past events and projects. I also worked on this report for most of the afternoon.

Overview:

Overall, I have really enjoyed this week - meeting new people, learning about the CRPs and how they engage with locals to promote healthy sustainable travel, and helping plan future projects such as Rail week in Finham Park 2. Something that I feel could be improved is the fact that in a couple of meetings, I felt I couldn't contribute because I didn't fully understand the background information such as the meeting on Thursday morning. Another part I really enjoyed was the social media side to the week so this includes taking over the Twitter page for the day and doing some macro photography around the stations. I feel like this work experience week has been an eye opener to all of the career opportunities out there which is very helpful for someone my age who is starting to think more about there career. Take a look here at some highlights of the week:

